

Thursday, April 3, 2008

House Meets At...	Votes Predicted At...
10:00 a.m. For Legislative Business	Last Vote: 2:00 p.m.
Five "One-minutes" Per Side	

**Any anticipated Member absences for votes this week should be reported to the Office of the Majority Whip at 226-3210.**

### Floor Schedule and Procedure

**H. Res. 1072-Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 4847 – United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2008 (Rep. Sutton-Rules):** The structured rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Science and Technology. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Debate on the rule will be managed by Rep. Sutton, and consideration will proceed as follows:

- One hour of debate on the rule.
- Possible vote on a Democratic Motion ordering the previous question. **Democrats are urged to vote yes.**
- Vote on adoption of the rule. **Democrats are urged to vote yes.**

**H.R. 4847 – United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2008 (Rep. Mitchell-Science and Technology):** Pursuant to the rule, debate on the bill will be managed by Science and Technology Committee Chair Rep. Bart Gordon, or his designee, and will proceed as follows:

- One hour of debate on the bill.
- Debate and votes on amendments to the bill.
- Possible debate and vote on a Republican motion to recommit the bill.
- Vote on passage of the bill.

## **Bill Summary and Key Issues**

### **H.R. 4847 – U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION REAUTHORIZATION**

#### **AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS**

Authorizes appropriations: \$70,000,000 for FY2009; \$72,100,000 for FY2010; \$74,263,000 for FY2011; and \$76,490,890 for FY2012.

#### **NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY TRAINING PROGRAM MODIFICATIONS AND REPORTS**

Amends the list of training activities the National Fire Academy is authorized to engage in by expanding response activities to national catastrophes of all types; authorizes training for response to large-scale fire events that involve multiple jurisdictions and stretch resources; authorizes training for firefighting activities in the wildland-urban interface; authorizes training for fire and emergencies involving hazardous materials; and authorizes training for advanced issues related to emergency medical services. Requires the Administrator to include a description of any changes to the National Fire Academy curriculum in every third annual USFA report to Congress. Authorizes the Administrator to enter into contracts to provide on-site training through third-party organizations. Such organizations must either provide training that leads to certification accredited by a relevant nationally recognized accreditation organization or, at the time of the agreement, provide similar training to another Federal agency.

Requires the Administrator to consolidate and integrate into the National Fire Academy curriculum a course on incident command for fires in marine and port environments into the National Fire Academy's incident command training.

#### **NATIONAL FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS**

Authorizes the Administrator to use a maximum of \$5 million dollars from the total appropriated over the years FY2009 to FY2011 to upgrade the National Fire incident Reporting System.

#### **FIRE TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE AND DISSEMINATION**

Authorizes USFA to assist the Nation's fire service by developing equipment, best practices, and new knowledge to address fire suppression and prevention for fires in the wildland-urban interface.

Requires USFA to maintain a web database of activities the agency funds related to trends, new knowledge, and best practices in firefighting.

#### **ENCOURAGING THE ADOPTION OF STANDARDS FOR FIREFIGHTER HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Directs the Administrator to promote the adoption of national voluntary consensus standards for firefighter health and safety by educating the fire service, encouraging their adoption at all levels of government and making recommendations on other ways the Federal government can encourage state, local, and federal fire agencies to comply with these standards.

## **COORDINATION ON FIRE SERVICE-BASED EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

Amends Section 21(e) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 by directing the Administrator to include fire service-based emergency medical services in his liaison and coordination activities across the Federal government. Authorizes the Administrator to conduct studies, either directly or through contracts, on the operations and management aspects of fire service-based EMS.

### **Anticipated Amendments to H.R. 4847**

**1. Pascrell (NJ):** Would provide that the National Fire Academy Training Program could train fire service personnel in response, tactics, and strategies for dealing with national catastrophes, including terrorist-caused national catastrophes and incidents that involve weapons of mass destruction. (10 minutes)

**2. Sali (ID):** Would direct the Administrator, in collaboration with relevant Federal agencies and departments, to develop and provide information and training to such agencies and departments on the importance of clearing biomass in wildland areas of Federal lands to promote the safety of firefighters. (10 minutes)

**3. Langevin (RI):** Would add a non-binding resolution demonstrating congressional support for the adoption of fire sprinklers in commercial buildings. This amendment also would demonstrate congressional support for educational programs that raise awareness of the importance of installing fire sprinklers in residential buildings. (10 minutes)

### **Quote of the Day**

"Our Constitution is color-blind, and neither knows nor tolerates classes among citizens. In respect of civil rights, all citizens are equal before the law. The humblest is the peer of the most powerful." -Justice John Marshall Harlan